

NORTHERNS SQUASH FEDERATION
PRESIDENT'S 2018 REPORT

On behalf of the Board, it is a privilege and a pleasure to report on the affairs of the Northern Squash Federation,

The period under review has seen a few changes within the NSF Structures, Anton Louw was elected as president of the NSF Board last year, due to personal issues and work commitments he felt his was not able to fulfil his duties to the high standard he would like to, he resigned as President and Kyle Potgieter has taken over his duties at present.

For record purposes, the NSF Board is a non-operational, coordinating body consisting of the Chairpersons of the Northern Junior Squash Association, the Northern Squash Association and the Northerns Masters Squash Association who serves as ex-officio members. A further 5 members are elected from whom the President and Vice President are elected. In addition to these, the convenor of the Audit and Governance Committee also serves as an ex-officio member.

The function of the board is to establish, promote, control and administer the sport within the boundaries of Gauteng North.

As president of the board I would like to highlight the achievements of the three associations, this report will deal only with some of the high lights, but I will attach each associations report to my report as it serves no purpose to re-write these reports.

THE N.S.F. BOARD AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES

The Board met during the 2019 season to oversee and monitor processes within the different associations.

I would like to acknowledge the input of the members that served on the Board – Anton Louw, Ashwell Jenneker, Rodney Wood, Robert More, Blaar Coetzee, Brett Cousins, Bronwen Riley, Piet Jordaan and Mike Pierce.

The Appeal Board, under the Chairmanship of Glenn Hickling again did not need to deal with any appeals in the 2019 season

The Board of Trustees comprising of the founder member Willie du Toit, Alan Colburn, Glenn Hickling, Rodney (Toepie) Wood control the funds invested in the 3 trusts, the 3 trust are being amalgamated into one trust to facilitate the easy administration of the trust.

The NSF website again played a big role in communicating with the Squash fraternity. It assisted hugely with players' information, tournament administration, league results and many other issues within the province.

We would like to thank Blaar for his maintenance of the website, as a squash community we must analysis how we can utilise the website from a commercial and communication structure.

The core function of the Board is to coordinate functions and disciplines within the three associations. Anton commented that he feels we have neglected the importance and value of having good quality coaches, referees/markers and other structures in our province and that should be our priority going into this year, I echo this, however with the amount of activity taking place it is going to be difficult to address this with the man power we have available.

Development Programme

Liz McKenzie and Maryna Fourie have always done and been prepared to do development in the Northerns area, a certain amount of support has been given to them from Squash SA side, I feel this needs to be an area we need to concentrate in the future. Unfortunately the need for facilities or transport to facilities makes this extremely difficult. My suggestion is that we look at a change on how we do this in the future, the possibility of developing smaller pockets of players but assisting for longer periods of time needs to be looked at.

I believe the improved communication between TUT and University Pretoria is an avenue that needs to be explored.

Governance of Compliance

Squash SA together with SASCO are in the process of implementing policies and guidelines to ensure good governance within the different sports structures. These guidelines will focus on processes, structures, communications, rules and regulations, selection criteria etc.

I believe Northerns Squash is one of the very few Associations that are run in a professional way. Our structure of 3 associations operating basically independently but under the umbrella of the NSF is to my knowledge probably unique in South African Squash.

In my opinion it allows the administrators to focus more directly on relevant issues instead of having to cover all bases by only a handful of people. The key to success for our structure however, is the availability of people who are prepared to sacrifice their time and energy to serve the sport and everyone involved with it.

During the past year the 3 associations joined forces and brought in the services of Gerda Dreyer as an administration assistant, the comments I have heard are that they she has gone beyond what was expected from her, and has been of great assistance to the associations. To drive a sport/association forward time is needed, in the future we need to look at an ideal structure and push towards it.

On Behalf of the NSF Board Members and myself I therefore want to express my sincere appreciation for the exceptional people we have on all levels and on all committees that so selflessly offers their time and energy to serve squash in Northerns. So often we find that

the vast majority of players enjoy all the benefits of playing in competitions and tournaments and not realizing the massive amount of energy spent by the people behind the screen. In Northernns we have many exceptional people and South African Squash has acknowledged with awards at the Squash SA Awards Function, as mentioned in the NSA report. However there are many more who serves on other bodies in South African Squash who go unnoticed.

To all the players, coaches' parents and everyone else who contribute to making it such a successful year for Northernns Squash congratulations and thank you again for participating, on and off the court.

Although there are several areas where we wish to improve and will make all efforts to do so, I can repeat what the previous president had mentioned in his 2018 report; Northernns Squash is in a healthy financial state, have good and functional structures in place to deal with most challenges and are blessed with a team of extraordinary people in our midst.

We look forward to a new year and to continue with the growth and development that we have experienced in the 2020 season

Many thanks

Kyle Potgieter

President N.S.F.

29 October 2019

Pretoria